

## Taking aim

Robins officer earns silver, gold medals at recent Armed Forces Shooting Competition

4B



## FEDERAL WAGE SYSTEM SCHEDULE

for Robins Air Force Base effective Saturday

7A

## GOLD PLATE

Wynn Dining Facility manager confident in bid for Gold Plate

8B

# THE ROBINS REV-UP

August 19, 2005

Vol. 50 No. 33

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.



### INSIGHT



### THE MACH READ

#### New Front gate opens Saturday

Robins will see changes in traffic flow, when the base's current main gate closes and the new main gate opens Saturday.

Incoming base traffic from Watson Boulevard will travel straight across Ga. Highway 247, entering the base using two lanes. Southbound traffic on Ga. Highway 247 will have two left turn lanes at the Watson Boulevard intersection and a third lane will allow northbound traffic to enter the base at the new main gate.

Commuters who park behind Building 215 will need to take the left lane to turn on Perry Street. People accessing the Visitor's Center need to take the right lane to enter the parking area. Drivers may use the right or center lane to reach the traffic signal at Byron Street, which will become a four-lane roadway from Third Street and First Street Saturday.

Stop signs at Byron Street and its intersection with Third Street and Richard Ray Boulevard will be removed. Stop signs will be placed at the Third Street and Richard Ray Boulevard intersections, with new traffic signals at Byron Street and Watson Boulevard activated Saturday.

Drivers may access the parking lot south of Building 300 on the other side of the intersection.

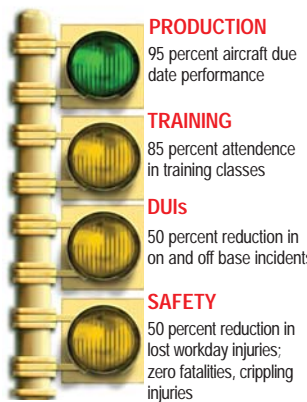
Drivers should anticipate some delays as employees get used to the new flow.

For more information, contact Chip Bridges, project engineer with the 778th Civil Engineer Squadron, at 926-3533 ext. 28601.

-From staff reports

### ON TRACK

The designated goal day is Nov. 10. The measurement period began April 1 and ends Sept. 30.



**WHAT IT MEANS**  
Green means goal is being met or exceeded.  
Yellow means goal has not been met, but is still attainable.  
Red means goal cannot be met.

The information reflects Robins' progress toward the goal day as of August 3.

U.S. Air Force graphic by REV-UP STAFF

## PICKING IT UP



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Joe Moreau performs a foreign object damage inspection on an F-15 recently. FOD inspections and daily FOD walks are built into the F-15 program depot maintenance process every day

## F-15 Production forms program to reduce foreign object damage

By **HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD**  
holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil

F-15 Production workers are taking steps to protect aircraft from foreign object damage.

FOD damage caused by screws, nuts, bolts, rocks and other debris continues to be a risk to aircraft here, so workers have put a program in place in recent months to reduce that risk.

Buck Whelchel, 402nd Maintenance Wing F-15 Production B-Section chief,

said FOD is a serious issue that can't be ignored.

"FOD could be caused by a lot of things, but the main thing we're concerned with is loose hardware or anything that could be ingested in a jet engine," he said. "You have self-generated FOD that comes from dropping hardware or having it fall off of a cart. As employees work on aircraft, they generate FOD. So, during the work process they should be picking up anything that has been

generated."

To ensure F-15 work areas and the flightline are as FOD free as possible, a 25-person FOD team, comprised of various F-15 workers, combs areas twice a week to catch any loose objects not recovered during routine daily clean ups, Whelchel said.

FOD inspections and daily FOD walks are built into the program depot maintenance process every day, said

► see **PROGRAM, 2A**

## Teamwork keeps F-15s flying high

By **LANORRIS ASKEW**  
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A collaborative effort begun one year ago this week to identify and solve the biggest sustainment obstacles facing the F-15 weapon system's APG-63/70 radar is reaping big dividends for the war fighter.

According to Jheri Womack and Larry McCarra, F-15 radar program managers, the radar, a multiple mode, attack radar which searches for, acquires, and

tracks airborne targets while providing a clutter-free display of all radar information, has constantly been one of the negative drivers for the F-15 fleet.

"As program manager my role was instrumental in first identifying problem areas and instituting a plan to eliminate parts problems and shortages," she said. "One of my responsibilities was to pull all key personnel together to resolve issues that could hamper the F-15s to fly or jeopardize the aircraft

► see **TEAMWORK, 2A**

## 78th Security Forces captain recounts joint service tour

By **GEOFF JANES**  
Geoff.janes@robins.af.mil

Capt. Marco "Tazz" Tassone said it's easier to get used to people trying to kill you daily than most people would think – at least it was for him.

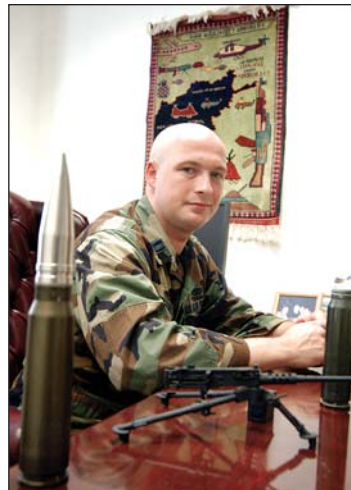
While deployed to Iraq for more than six months as a battle captain at Logistics Support Base Anaconda, the 27-year-old Waldorf, Md., native faced mortar and rocket attacks almost every day. But, he's ready to go back.

"I'd volunteer for a two- or three-year tour over there if they'd let me," he said.

It's a statement he makes with conviction. Following in his father's footsteps, Captain Tassone, who returned to Robins in April, volunteered to be forward deployed while he was deployed in Kyrgyzstan last fall. It was something his dad, retired Air Force Master Sgt. Lawrence Tassone, did during the Vietnam conflict.

"Just like him, I didn't want to be in the rear with the gear," he said. "I knew I was doing my part to support the mission in Kyrgyzstan, but I didn't feel like I was where the war was. I knew I was getting myself into a position that was a lot more dangerous, but that's where I wanted to be.

"That's what I've trained to do my whole life, and to put that



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

**Capt. Marco Tassone served as a battle captain for six months in Iraq.**

training to good use definitely gives me the chance to give the Air Force its money's worth," he added.

Captain Tassone said he spoke to or e-mailed his father on a regular basis during his deployment – whether it was to say hello, ask advice or just to hear his dad tell him to "call your mother," the two shared a bond that was more than familial.

"As far as my nickname (Tazz) is concerned, well it was my father's for 22 years of service," Captain Tassone said. "It's basically a shortening of Tassone to Tass which then became Tazz. Same happened to me when I joined up, so it's kind of a torch passing thing."

► see **CAPTAIN, 4A**

## Robins couple helps exchange students get education American style

By **HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD**  
holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil

Allen and Tina Myers recently welcomed two new teenaged daughters from half a world away into their home.

The two have raised their own 28-year-old daughter, Helen, but found themselves wanting to do more. And, thanks to Youth for Understanding, an international educational exchange program, the couple is getting that chance, playing host parents to Silvia Tamminen, 16, from Finland, and

Simone Meyer, 17, from Switzerland.

"It was the empty nest syndrome and the chance to do something interesting and interact with other people," said Mr. Myers, a 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Wing quality specialist here. "We found out that the children are somewhat different from American children, but also very much alike in the way they dress, the music and movies they like and the books they read. This also gives us a chance to learn from them."

► see **STUDENTS, 2A**

Simone Meyer, left, and Silvia Tamminen are exchange students from Switzerland and Finland respectively. They are staying with a Robins family while completing their senior year in high school.

U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP



### THINK SAFETY

**AIRMEN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING**  
To request a ride, call 335-5218, 335-5238 or 335-5236.

**SLOW DOWN ► 511** speeding tickets have been issued to date. Accumulating 12 traffic violation points within a year may cause drivers to lose base driving privileges for up to 6 months. Speeding violation points are based on the number of miles over the posted speed limit.

### WEATHER FORECAST

Courtesy of 78th OSS/OSW

TODAY  
92/71



SAURDAY  
91/70



SUNDAY  
90/70



# TEAMWORK

Continued from 1A

from meeting the demands in the Global War on Terrorism.”

In an attempt to cure its plague of ailments including repair and obsolescence issues, Defense Logistics Agency parts problems, and the lack of an adequate rotatable spares pipeline, a team made up of representatives from the 330th Fighter Sustainment Group, 402nd Maintenance Wing, 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing and Raytheon gathered for a series of brainstorming sessions.

Out of those sessions came the APG-63/70 Backorder Reduction Plan, which since October, has resulted in total backorders being dropped from 874 down to 222, a decline of 75 percent. Mostly all of the parts issues plaguing the radar system have been resolved, and engineering continues to join forces to resolve issues for both repair facilities (here and Raytheon).

This decrease translates directly to the war fighter by increasing aircraft availability.

“By closely monitoring the back orders and supplying needed parts, we can provide the critical support needed to keep the aircraft in operational condition to fly at any time,” said Ms. Womack.

“After all, it’s the F-15 that plays a vital role in homeland security and quickly responds to any national security emergency.”

She added that although the plan was implemented and managed by the F-15 radar program managers, success was made possible by the concerted efforts of the system program management office, Raytheon, 402nd F-15 Electronics Maintenance Group, and assistance from the

Weapon Systems Supply Chain Management team.

“I attribute the success to committed members who were willing to follow a plan and monitor the progress every step of the way,” she said. “There were conscientious people in their respective areas making every effort to support our back order reduction plan. We were extremely fortunate to have very experienced personnel working this ongoing effort.”

The team work aspect was vital.

“It’s important to work closely with the contractors to eliminate problems quickly and maintain accurate lines of communications,” said Ms. Womack. “Simultaneously, a mutual trust is built and better planning can be achieved. It’s through the program manager’s guidance that a program stays on track and performs successfully. Contractors are becoming more supportive every day. When we provide them with the big picture, they always respond with their best efforts.”

“The Center is grateful for the support Raytheon provided in this effort, and we look forward to working together with not only Raytheon, but any of our other contractor counterparts in the future,” she said.

While it’s good to see the numbers go down, it’s the words of gratitude from the user that make it all worthwhile.

“Before we had constant distress calls for parts shortages,” said Ms. Womack. “Now they just call to say thanks. Leadership is aware that the F-15 radar parts problems are no longer on the critical lists and can focus on other pressing issues.”

In a seperate effort, the F-15 Avionics Advanced Planning and Scheduling or APS

Pathfinder here has been working with the 402nd F-15 Electronics Division and Raytheon personnel to establish a web-based tool to facilitate future state collaboration.

“APS utilizes Commercial-Off-The-Shelf software and focuses on improving the planning processes designed to prepare the Air Force supply chain to respond to maintenance, repair, and overhaul requirements as well as supporting enterprise planning across multiple customers, inventory points, and repair points,” said Denise Rogers, APS Team chief.

According to Ms. Rogers, the APS team is prototyping two APG-63/70 radar Line Replaceable Units or LRUs: the 031 Radar Antenna and the 038 Analog to Digital Converter.

“Both of these LRUs and 26 of their SRUs are dual-repair items with Raytheon and avionics here,” said Ms. Rogers. “Five of these 28 dual-repaired LRUs and SRUs are among the 40 items selected for the manual collaboration process last year.

These five items are now available for monthly review by both 402nd F-15 Electronics Division and Raytheon personnel.

“Using this web-enabled collaboration tool, we’re able to share forecasted supply planning requirements with the depot and Raytheon, who in-turn provide their forecasted monthly production, actual production, carcass availability and Awaiting Parts information for review,” said Ms Rogers. “In the future, we envision APS vendor collaboration as a fully interactive process, incorporating depot, vendor, and APS information into an integrated solution, providing near real-time parts visibility for planning and assessment of execution plans.”



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Jessie Brown performs a foreign object damage inspection on an F-15 before moving the plane.

## PROGRAM

Continued from 1A

George Reid, 402nd MXW F-15 Production P Section chief.

“FOD is everybody’s business,” he said. “From secretaries to managers, FOD is everyone’s concern.”

Workers use an attachment on the back of a cart that sweeps and traps loose hardware and objects like rocks and other natural debris to keep them from being a potential threat to aircraft.

In addition to establishing new inspections between the work area’s 24 cells and emphasizing better organization and increased awareness, sec-

tion chiefs have been working to increase shop workers’ education about the importance of controlling and reducing incidents of foreign object damage.

“FOD is our problem, and we can’t let it go on,” said Mr. Whelchel.

F-15 Production areas are issuing small bags that can be attached to belts with reflective material to not only protect workers’ safety but also can be used for picking up FOD debris in the work areas.

A new facility is being constructed near Building 83 to house F-15 engines in the functional test area while the aircraft undergo repair - a project Mr. Whelchel said is furthering the protection of aircraft from FOD.

## STUDENTS

Continued from 1A

The Meyers, who have been providing cultural education opportunities for the girls since they arrived Aug. 1, aren’t the only ones eager to learn.

Silvia, a Houston County High School senior who plays girl’s basketball, and Simone, also a Houston County senior on the school’s swim team, said they love experiencing American culture.

“It’s different,” Silvia said. “The school is much bigger than my school in Finland.”

Simone agreed.

“In Switzerland, you have longer school until 5 o’clock in the evening,” she said. “It’s funny that you have to change classes every lesson. In Switzerland, you have different subjects, but all in the same class.”

The two somewhat shy teenage girls said the transition into the Middle Georgia area has been good so far.

“I think American people are very friendly,” Silvia said. “It’s easy to get to know them at school. They ask where you’re from, and they’re very interested in Finland.”

Simone, who has a twin brother in Switzerland, said she’s impressed with the conveniences here.

“You can refill your Coke, and that’s new (to me),” she said. “We have an ice machine here. We don’t have that back home.”

While the exchange students are enjoying their school year away from home, the Meyers, who serve as YFU representatives for the Central Georgia area, are enjoying the chance to make the girls feel more a part of their home.

“As a mother I love it,” the 330th Tactical Airlift

## WHAT TO KNOW

Youth for Understanding (YFU), is a non-profit educational organization which offers opportunities for high school and college students around the world to spend a summer, semester or year with a host family in another culture.

For more information, contact Tina Meyers, YFU Southern Tier rep, at 926-3737.

For Internet information visit [www.yfu.org](http://www.yfu.org).

Sustainment Group production management specialist, said. “I love children, and I love working with them. We’re mom and dad while they’re here. These two girls make wonderful daughters.”

Mrs. Meyers said the two will remain in their care until they graduate and will return home in June.

## Museum of Aviation earns national accreditation

The Museum of Aviation Flight and Technology Center here has been awarded national accreditation by the American Association of Museums.

It is the only U.S. Air Force field museum to hold the honor. The recognition puts the museum in a group with eight aviation museums in the nation.

Being accredited lets museum leaders make informed decisions, allocate and use resources, and maintain accountability.

Of the nation's nearly 16,000 museums, 5 percent are accredited. Among other accredited museums are the National Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C. and the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

“To say that I’m excited about achieving accreditation would be a gross understatement,” said Museum Director Paul Hibbitts. “This accreditation is the culmi-

nation of over two years of hard work by the Museum staff.”

The Museum of Aviation is the largest Air Force field museum displaying more than 100 aircraft and missiles. The education-based museum has grown into a significant exhibit, drawing more than 500,000 visitors a year.

For more information on the Museum of Aviation, please visit [www.museumofaviation.org](http://www.museumofaviation.org) or call (478) 926-6870.

— From staff reports

# CAPTAIN

Continued from 1A

During his tour the 78th Security Forces Squadron chief of resources and training was attached first to the 81st Brigade Combat Team and then the 29th Brigade Combat Team – Army National Guard units out of Washington and Hawaii respectively.

Working in the joint defense operations center at LSA (which encompasses Balad Air Base), Captain Tassone was responsible for running a shift of about 18 to 20 people comprised of four Airmen with the rest being Soldiers.

Senior Airman Johnathon T. Lannan, from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., is one of those Airmen and is still deployed there.

“I worked directly for Captain Tassone as the senior eTASS (enhanced tactical automated security system) operator at the JDOC,” Airman Lannan wrote in an e-mail. “Capt. Tassone was a great officer to work for here at Balad.”

Lannan, who has been in Iraq for about five and a half months, said his job is to detect indirect fire attacks against coalition forces using radar equipment and a series of cameras that allow him to provide the (current) battle cap-

“From Kryzygstan to Iraq, all the services, and I do mean all the services including those from other countries, are working together,”

**Capt. Marco Tassone**  
*78th Security Forces Squadron*

tain with a visual of incidents inside and outside the LSA. He also monitors a sensor system that protects resources inside the Balad airfield.

Working with people like Airman Lannan, Captain Tassone made sure everything that was supposed to happen concerning base defense happened when the base was attacked. That included letting people know to take cover.

“Base defense could involve a mortar attack, a rocket attack or a vehicle borne explosive device,” he said. “It could also include people shooting at the towers or someone trying to penetrate the gate and attack the base.”

Three hundred meters outside the base perimeter, soldiers from the Army’s Big Red 1 Infantry Division handled defense and patrolled the area.

“Anytime we would get a mortar or a rocket launched toward the base, we had systems that could track where it came from,” he said. “Once we nailed that information down, I

would contact the (Army) to let them know where it came from and they would pound them with indirect fire or send ground troops in.”

The attacks were common, and Captain Tassone smiles wryly when he looks at a certificate on his stark white office wall in Building 261 that states, “I survived 200 attacks”.

And although 99 percent of those attacks were mortars and rockets by his account, the young captain said he was actually able to get used to it.

“We were attacked almost every day while I was there,” he said. “After the first week or so being nervous and watching the first few attacks including one that was pretty close while I was coming out of the shower that scared the beejeebies out of me, I started noticing that the chance of something falling out of the sky and landing on my head in such a big location were slim to none.

“A regular trained Army sending mortar after mortar downrange would be one thing,” he added, “but a lot of these attacks were just people who are out there with the old thumb windage and propping (the mortar) up with a stick or a rock and sending it downrange hoping it hits something.”

Captain Tassone said that even so, sometimes they would get lucky.

“Occasionally they’d cream a trailer (where troops slept), but it was during the day, and luckily everyone was at work,” he said. “They did damage some

equipment while I was there. They hit a helicopter and a truck and some stuff like that. Nothing major though, nothing that couldn’t be fixed.”

Captain Tassone said that although people did get injured at the location, it wasn’t something that consumed his thoughts.

“About two weeks before I got there a security forces member lost both his legs and one of his arms,” he said. “He was at the same location doing customs duties. So yes, people did get injured there, but it

could happen to anyone any day of the week. It’s like being here. You could get in your car and get hit on your way to work, so to me it was no more dangerous.”

Captain Tassone said that the one thing that really stuck with him following his deployment was a feeling of unity.

“From Kyrgyzstan to Iraq, all the services, and I do mean all the services including those from other countries, are working together,” he said. “It’s the face that the media doesn’t put on it. This is a joint

effort to free Iraq and Afghanistan. I’m proud to say we have helped put it closer to having a democratic government.”

Airman Lannan agreed. “Everyone here at Balad is 100 percent mission focused,” he said. “The benefits of working hard and getting the job done, literally, ensures the safety and security of everyone working here. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coalition members are all working side by side to complete the mission.”



U.S. Air Force photo illustration

In this photo taken in Balad, Capt. Marco Tassone stands in front of just a few examples of weapons used to attack his location in Iraq.

► **IN BRIEF**

**Giant Voice weekly testing**

The Robins Command Post performs a weekly test of the base siren system and Mass Notification System every Wednesday, between noon and 1 p.m. Don't be alarmed when you hear the sirens. Should an actual emergency arise, further instructions would be broadcast.

**Lost and Found**

Seven bikes, one scooter, two wallets with contents, one set of ladies rings, book bag with contents, dog tags, decorative knife and a gym bag with contents have been found. To identify property, call Stacey Panozzo, found property custodian, 78th Security Forces Investigations, at 926-5271.

**Live fire training**

The 78th Security Forces Squadron conducts live fire training at the base firing range, located on the north-east side of the base, adjacent to the horse stables. The firing ranges are off-limits to all persons, unless scheduled for training or official business, and are clearly marked with signs and red flags during weapons firing. Also, night firing is conducted throughout the year. If you have any questions or concerns, call the 78th SFS Combat Arms section at 926-5031.

**Company Grade Officers Association**

The Company Grade Officers Association helps young officers to broaden or establish a network, develop career opportunities, make new friends, form a social network and get involved in the community. For more information, visit <https://wwwmil.robins.af.mil/cgoa> or call 1st Lt. Allison Guillaume at 327-2659 or 2nd Lt. Niklaus Pleisch at 222-2320.

**Base legal assistance**

The Base Legal Assistance Office wants to enhance the convenience of persons who need legal assistance. Active duty, activated reserves and guardsmen, retirees and their dependents are eligible for Base Legal Assistance. Eligible persons are now encouraged to call ahead for appointments or other arrangements. To consult an attorney, appointments are scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays. Powers of attorney and notaries are done on a walk-in basis, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. The Base Legal Assistance Office is located in Building 215, Suite 178, at the north entrance. Eligible persons who need legal assistance are encouraged to call Stephanie Wynne at 926-3961, extension 111.

**Thrift Shop now taking consignments**

The Thrift Shop is currently taking donations on consignment. The shop is located on Page Road, Building 288, just inside Gate 5. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Also, the shop is looking for volunteers to fill various positions. For more informa-

tion, call 923-1686.

**NCO retraining**

The fiscal 2006 NCO Retraining Program will target about 1,100 NCOs (staff sergeant, technical sergeant, master sergeant and senior master sergeant) to retrain from Air Force Speciality Codes with NCO overages to AFSCS with NCO shortages. The voluntary phase of the program runs through

Oct. 14. If necessary, an involuntary phase will begin shortly afterwards. Some restrictions apply, depending on grade and AFSC. Contact your local Military Personnel Flight at 327-7353 for complete details and a list of available retraining in AFSCs.

**Travel Office changes**

AirTrak will be the new travel office contractor at

Robins. The conversion from Bay Area Travel to AirTrak will go into effect Monday. Bay Area Travel will be closed after the conversion. The fiscal 2006 rates are not available at this time for those traveling in October. Reservations cannot be made until September. The travel office will be open Monday. For more information, contact the Traffic Management Office

at 222-0110.

**Special Activities Coffee**

The Robins Officers' Spouses' Club will hold a special activities coffee Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Museum of Aviation (Hanger One). Representatives from base and community organizations will be on hand to provide helpful information about the Middle Georgia community.

Get out of the house and enjoy OSC's special activities, clubs and volunteer opportunities including: bowling, book club, bridge, tennis, thrift shop, and tours. For more information, contact Nandalee Sarandos, OSC president, at 953-8137, 442-1567 or [RobinsOSC@gmail.com](mailto:RobinsOSC@gmail.com) or Heather Walrath, OSC membership, at 218-0493 or [hhillw@hotmail.com](mailto:hhillw@hotmail.com).

“We are the world’s greatest Air and Space Power because of you, America’s Airmen. The needless loss of one Airman is one loss too many. Look out for each other -- look out for your wingman.”

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper, will retire in September

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SUBMISSION  
GUIDELINES

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DELIVERY

The Robins Rev-Up is published 50 times a year on Fridays, except when a holiday occurs during the middle or latter part of the week and the last two Fridays of the year. To report delivery issues, call Geoff Janes at (478) 222-0804.

ADVERTISING

For advertising information, call The Telegraph advertising department at (478) 923-6432.

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad, call The Telegraph at (478) 744-4234.

ONLINE

To read articles online, visit [www.robins.af.mil/pa/revup-online/index.htm](http://www.robins.af.mil/pa/revup-online/index.htm).

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RETREAT

Martin salutes AFMC at final flag ceremony

*At the end of each day, before the sun goes down, we take a moment to pay our respects to the symbol of this nation – the flag of the United States of America...*

a nation born of revolution, bounded by a constitution, tempered by war, wounded by inequity, healed by respect for human dignity, strengthened by diversity, and matured by world reality.

This retreat, then, is a chance for each of us to reflect on the blessings of this great nation, to pray for those in harm's way who represent each of us as they offer the strength and compassion of this nation to others in need, and to rededicate ourselves to the mission we have left to do.

As your commander, and as I preside over my last retreat ceremony this week, I do so with the greatest sense of pride for your

dedication, for your professionalism and the accomplishments you have achieved on behalf of our entire United States Air Force.

Our Air Force rides on the backs of the men and women of the Air Force Materiel Command, and ladies and gentlemen, our Air Force is riding high.

And for that, I salute each of you.

*This commentary was written by Gen. Gregory S. Martin, Air Force Materiel Command Commander. Gen. Martin is scheduled to retire from his 35-year Air Force Career today.*



Gen. Gregory S. Martin, Air Force Materiel Command Commander, salutes during a Retreat ceremony at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Thursday.

A place to call home - defining your roots

“There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other, wings.” -- Hodding Carter, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist.

My parents are moving. That’s not earth-shaking news for most middle-aged American men, but this is the first time my parents have moved since 1968. Lyndon Johnson was president when they moved to their current house.

My parents didn’t move much before 1968, either. In fact, they are moving into their fourth home in 48 years. In contrast, my wife and I have been married for six years, and we are already living in home number four.

By the time my son is my age, thanks to the exploding growth of technologies, people will probably be in virtually constant motion, whizzing around the country in their

hydrogen fusion-powered hovercars watching high-definition anime downloaded to the plasma screens on their palms and their berries with the MP3 ringtones and ... OK, I admit I don’t really understand what most of that mumbo jumbo even means. But, I do wonder if his generation will ever understand the importance of the concept of home.

To me, home is about feeling you belong somewhere. The word itself creates an instant sense of comfort, familiarity and security.

The house my parents are leaving remains my home. I lived there until I left for college. I’ve been back for holidays, vacations and visits. I feel I could drive there without a map from any point on the continent.

No matter where I am stationed, and no matter how plush my parent’s new condo turns out to be, that old brick

house will always be what I picture when I hear the word “home.”

As an Airman, I will never have the roots they take for granted. The Air Force can’t give us a life like my parents’.

To paraphrase Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., as Airmen, we fight where we are told (and win where we fight).

The constantly changing needs of the mission and the system of professional development don’t permit us to grow such roots.

Instead, we get wings. Wings make us agile, versatile and flexible to do what must be done where it must be done.

Wings keep us moving not only from base to base and house to house, but onward, upward and forward in our growth and our performance as individuals and as teams.

But in spite of this necessity for regular changes in our jobs, locations, co-workers,

etc., the Air Force still manages to give us roots of another kind.

We share history, customs, traditions, experiences and above all, purpose.

These are the roots that give us our identity and form the ties that bind us to each other, to the past and to the future.

They create a neighborhood that has no geographical boundaries but is still as real as any village or parish or city.

We are not just working for the Air Force. We are members of the Air Force. We belong to it and it belongs to us, just like any family or community. No matter where in the world we go, no matter what mission we perform, every time we suit up, we come home.

*This commentary was written by Lt. Col. Tim Cothrel, 5th Bomb Wing staff judge advocate.*



Col. Greg Patterson  
78th Air Base Wing commander

Commander’s  
Action Line

Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live.

Remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible: Security Forces 327-3445; Services Division 926-5491; EEO Office 926-2131; MEO 926-6608; Employee Relations 926-5802; Military Pay 926-3777; IDEA 926-2536; Base hospital 327-7850; Civil engineering 926-5657; Public Affairs 926-2137; Safety Office 926-6271; Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline 926-2393; Housing Office 926-3776. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes.

To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 or for the quickest response, e-mail one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account, use [action.line@robins.af.mil](mailto:action.line@robins.af.mil). Readers can also visit <https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response.

Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Robins Rev-Up. Anonymous action lines will not be processed.

The Union Advocate

Sir- I have a question concerning the “Union Advocate” and its distribution on base. While I understand the need to have some form of communication among the base’s civilian work force, I have a hard time understanding where the line is drawn concerning slandering base leadership. As I walked out of Building 215 on Friday afternoon, the huge headline of “Suicide Shakes Robins – What Really Happened last Friday” caught my attention. While I claim no background knowledge surrounding the events of July 22, I was surprised to read such a one-sided commentary that called the integrity of nearly everyone in the individual’s chain into question. Here is the local union president, the “advocate” for a large percentage of the work force at Robins, openly calling into question all of leadership’s integrity, both military and civilian. How is this paper allowed to be circulated on our base? Even civilian papers require some sort of education, some sort of writing skill, and most importantly, some sort of fact to back up what you write. Thanks so much for your time.

Colonel Patterson’s  
reply:

Thank you for your comments relative to the articles that appeared in the July 29 - Aug. 4 edition of the Union Advocate. The Master Labor Agreement – the effective labor agreement negotiated by HQ AFMC and AFGE Council 214 – allows the union to distribute its newspapers, circulars and notices in any and all areas where base newspapers are distributed. I don’t review the paper prior to its distribution and am not responsible for the writing skills of the authors of the Union Paper or their research. Those responsibilities are solely the Union President’s.

We are conducting a thorough investigation of the events leading up to, and on, July 22. The ALC/CC and I recently met with the Union president and the local media to discuss the facts, not speculation, surrounding this case in an effort to inform Robins personnel and the surrounding community about the tragic events that occurred that day. The Macon Telegraph published what I believe to be a fair and factual article this past Monday with this information.

The rules of behavior for those acting in behalf of recognized labor unions differ sharply from those applicable to military service members. Those differences result from statutes and court rulings governing the respective status of each. However, I do expect all personnel employed at Robins to treat each other with dignity and respect in line with our core values.

‘Dear Roz’

**Q: As an employee, what can I do to prepare for NSPS?**

A: As employees, there are several ways that we can get ready for the transition to NSPS. We should view this as a positive change. The NSPS concept involves ways and means to improve or change the structural issues that make it difficult for employees and supervisors to succeed. The following are ideas or suggestions on what we as employees can do to prepare for NSPS:

- (1) Be proactive and keep abreast of the latest information. Visit the NSPS web site regularly to stay up-to-date on the latest NSPS information: [www.cpm.s.osd.mil/nsps](http://www.cpm.s.osd.mil/nsps). You may also go to the Robins Homepage and click on NSPS (The NSPS Icon is located in the middle of the Robins Homepage)
- (2) Ask your supervisor about the

possibility of having the Centr CCN office come to your area to present the NSPS Overview.

The Center CCN Office is here to provide the NSPS Overview to all employees at Robins.

This can be accomplished at an organizational staff meeting, Commanders Call, etc.

To schedule the NSPS Overview, please call me, Ms. Rosalind Overton, at 926-4023.

(3) Review your organization’s mission goals or objectives. Think about how the work you do supports these goals and identify specific ways you can contribute to your organization’s success

(4) Begin to talk with your supervisor about your accomplishments, current work assignments, future plans and request suggestions on what you can do to improve your present performance.

- (5) Watch for announcements on specific NSPS Training that will be offered in the near future at the NSPS web site located on the Robins Home Page, Training Managers/Monitors notifications, etc. Employees can and will make a difference on how successful the implementation of NSPS becomes. We all are part of the effort to make NSPS our new and improved Human Resources System and in turn move the Department of Defense into a new era of employee opportunity and excellence.

*Rosalind ‘Roz’ Overton, NSPS transition assistant, will address employees’ NSPS concerns in the Robins Rev-Up each week. For more information, call Ms. Overton at 926-4023 or visit the NSPS link at [www.robins.af.mil](http://www.robins.af.mil).*



Rosalind ‘Roz’ Overton is a National Security Personnel System transition assistant.

Military justice

During the period of Aug. 8 through 14, one member of Robins Air Force Base received non-judicial punishment under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

An airman first class possessed alcohol in the dormitory. Punishment: Reduction to airman.

There were no administrative discharges under the rapid airman discharge program for this time period.

– 78th Air Base Wing Legal Office

FEDERAL WAGE SYSTEM SCHEDULE

Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Robins Air Force Base, Ga  
Effective Saturday

WG – nonsupervisory

Grade	Step					
	1	2	3	4	5	
	1	11.45	11.96	12.44	12.94	13.45
	2	12.57	13.05	13.63	14.13	14.66
	3	13.65	14.21	14.78	15.35	15.92
	4	14.38	14.98	15.58	16.18	16.76
	5	15.39	16.04	16.68	17.32	17.96
	6	16.17	16.85	17.52	18.20	18.86
	7	16.95	17.66	18.36	19.08	19.77
	8	17.72	18.47	19.20	19.94	20.68
	9	18.51	19.28	20.05	20.82	21.60
	10	19.28	20.08	20.88	21.69	22.50
	11	20.01	20.83	21.66	22.50	23.32
	12	20.71	21.58	22.45	23.31	20.61
	13	21.36	22.25	23.13	24.03	24.93
	14	22.04	22.97	23.89	24.80	25.72
	15	22.75	23.70	24.66	25.59	26.54

WL – leader

Grade	Step					
	1	2	3	4	5	
	1	12.65	13.17	13.71	14.24	14.80
	2	13.85	14.42	14.99	15.59	16.15
	3	15.01	15.63	16.26	16.88	17.51
	4	15.82	16.47	17.14	17.80	18.46
	5	16.93	17.64	18.34	19.05	19.75
	6	17.79	18.53	19.27	20.01	20.75
	7	18.65	19.43	20.20	20.99	21.76
	8	19.49	20.31	21.12	21.93	22.74
	9	20.36	21.21	22.06	22.91	23.75
	10	21.21	22.09	22.97	23.86	24.74
	11	21.99	22.92	23.83	24.75	25.67
	12	22.78	23.73	24.69	25.63	26.59
	13	23.51	24.47	25.45	26.43	27.41
	14	24.25	25.27	26.28	27.29	28.30
	15	25.03	26.07	27.11	28.16	29.20

WG – supervisory

Grade	Step					
	1	2	3	4	5	
	1	17.97	18.73	19.47	20.22	20.97
	2	18.70	19.48	20.26	21.04	21.82
	3	19.43	20.23	21.04	21.85	22.66
	4	20.16	21.00	21.83	22.67	23.52
	5	21.17	22.06	22.94	23.82	24.70
	6	21.95	22.87	23.78	24.68	25.61
	7	22.73	23.68	24.62	25.56	26.52
	8	23.51	24.48	25.46	26.44	27.42
	9	24.29	25.29	26.31	27.33	28.33
	10	25.07	26.10	27.14	28.19	29.24
Shift differentials: 2nd shift: 7.5% 3rd shift: 10.0%	11	25.71	26.78	27.85	28.93	29.98
	12	26.56	27.67	28.77	29.88	30.98
	13	27.62	28.76	29.91	31.06	32.22
	14	28.87	30.07	31.27	32.48	33.68
	15	30.32	31.58	32.85	34.10	35.37
	16	31.96	33.29	34.62	35.95	37.28
	17	33.81	35.22	36.63	38.05	39.45
	18	35.87	37.35	38.85	40.34	41.85
	19	37.38	38.94	40.50	42.06	43.61

AVERAGE  
HOURLY WAGE  
ADJUSTMENTS

Restricted Schedule #041R  
**Non-Supervisory**  
\$.6066 or 3.43%  
**Leader**  
\$.6666 or 3.43%  
**Supervisory**  
\$.8431 or 3.21%  
**Unrestricted**  
\$07626 or 4.35%

Restricted Schedule #241R  
**Non-Supervisory**  
\$.6486 or 3.67%  
**Leader**  
\$.7133 or 3.67%  
**Supervisory**  
\$.9373 or 3.57%  
**Unrestricted**  
\$.7626 or 4.35%



U.S. Air Force photo by TECH SGT. DAVID JABLONSKI

After reviewing feedback generated during a seven-month wear test, Air Force officials decided to eliminate the original color scheme for the new utility uniform, which featured blue and green tiger stripes, and replace it with a green, tan, blue and gray digitized pattern featured here. The uniform is expected to be available for purchase in fiscal 2007

# Tiger stripes are out; new blend of subdued colors is being tested

By **TECH. SGT. DAVID A. JABLONSKI**  
Air Force Print News

Blue and green tiger stripes are out, and a digitized pattern with subdued green, tan, blue and gray is in.

After reviewing more than 150,000 bits of feedback throughout the initial seven-month wear test of the proposed new utility uniform, Air Force leaders recently decided to eliminate the original color scheme and conduct a limited field test of the new pattern.

Special operations, and survival, evasion, resistance and escape Airmen conducted a limited wear test of the new design at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Hurlburt Field, Fla., and Fairchild AFB, Wash., in June.

The purpose of the test was to determine if any new features could be added to make the uniform better and to determine if the colors and pattern provide Airmen with the camouflage protection they need in the field, said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos, Air Force uniform board superintendent.

Airmen who participated in the initial wear test stopped wearing the more vibrant blue-green uni-

form March 1.

The original wear test involved more than 700 Airmen at 32 bases worldwide who kept detailed daily logs annotating likes, dislikes, and wash-and-wear problems. They also completed three surveys.

“Throughout the test, Air Force leaders actively solicited feedback from testers and observers alike to ensure this uniform developed into one that fit the needs of today’s Airmen,” Sergeant Athnos said.

“There were several avenues for feedback, ensuring that the (Air Force) chief of staff had realistic facts when making the final decision on the uniform,” she said.

Those avenues included a survey sent to 45,000 Airmen, a Web site and direct e-mail to the uniform board.

“Some comments were positive, some were negative - all of them were provided directly to the chief of staff,” Sergeant Athnos said.

Airmen can expect to purchase the uniform sometime in fiscal 2007. The proposed uniform will be phased in over four or five years.

# Air Force seeks stories from ‘9/11 Generation’

By **TECH. SGT. J.C. WOODRING**  
Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO – The face of the world changed when terrorists intentionally crashed commercial aircraft into the Twin Towers in New York and into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. A global audience watched the attacks live on television, and the repeated images haunted many for weeks, months or even years.

These attacks inspired different reactions. Some feared living in major cities, others became avid news junkies, and many chose to join the fight for freedom. Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 135,000 have joined the Air Force.

Air Force officials want to share their stories. In an effort launched Aug. 17, Airmen who are part of this “9/11 Generation” can tell their stories through Air Force Link, the Air

Force’s official Web site.

“Before 9/11, many Airmen never really thought that they might go to war,” said Col. Janice Gunnoe, Air Force News Agency commander. “Since the attacks, our new Airmen understand that their country is at war, and they chose to join the fight anyway.

“This is a drastic change in their motives, and these letters are a way for them to tell their stories,” she said.

## HOW TO TELL YOUR STORY

Airmen can submit stories to [www.af.mil/letters/index.asp?type=4](http://www.af.mil/letters/index.asp?type=4).

To record an audio story, call (877) 237-2346 toll free, DSN 945-5918 or commercial (210) 925-5918 and select Option 2.

## Graduate program offers advanced tools for terror war

By **Donna Miles**  
American Forces Press Service

MONTEREY, Calif. (AFPN) – A one-of-a-kind curriculum offered here at the Naval Postgraduate School is helping shape future leaders for the challenges they will confront in the war on terrorism.

Unlike some academic programs with seemingly little real-life application, the Defense Analysis program focuses on issues commanders in all four services deal with daily as they work to counter the terrorist threat.

“It’s allowed us, in very measurable ways, to contribute to national security,” said Gordon McCormick, chair of the Defense Analysis Department, who helped create the master’s-degree-level program.

Program graduates are actively applying the lessons learned supporting the war on terrorism, he said.

“Our graduates are all over the frontline. You can’t go to Afghanistan or Iraq without running into them,” Mr. McCormick said.

Mr. McCormick said former students, all special operations force officers, said the program is proving invaluable in the field.

“It gives them the conceptual tools they need to properly frame the operational problems they are facing,” he said.

Program participants from the Army, Navy and Air Force study a core program of instruction designed to teach them to think in new ways about leadership, conflict and warfare, Mr. McCormick said.

They also select a specialty track focusing on an area of special operations, ranging from terrorist operations and financing to combat systems to national security affairs.

Before completing the program, each student researches, writes and presents a thesis that explores a specific military issue or problem.

Some, like the thesis Capt. Tom Meer collaborated with two other students on, have attracted a lot of attention from U.S. Special Operations Command and military leaders. It explores how to track down “high-value targets who don’t want to be found,” based on extensive research and interviews with government agencies, private investigators and even bounty hunters, he explained.

“We do certain things well,” Captain Meer said about what his research showed, but rely too heavily on technology versus old-fashioned police work by humans on the ground. His thesis also recommends lower-cost, more effective ways to capture terrorists who remain at large.

Now that he has completed the Naval Postgraduate School program, Captain Meer is headed to the Joint Special Operations University at Hurlburt Field, Fla., where he will continue to build on these concepts.

Other theses topics being researched at the Naval Postgraduate School show equal promise in supporting current operational needs.

Maj. Marlee Rust, an intelligence officer slated to graduate from the Defense Analysis program in March, is researching interagency collaboration in the intelligence community.

Maj. Jim Klingmeyer, an intelligence officer who has served in both Iraq and Afghanistan, is taking a hard look at how human intelligence

is collected and how the system can be improved for the 21st century. He compares intelligence efforts in both countries, evaluating what worked and what didn’t and coming up with recommendations about how organizations involved can interact more effectively.

Students and graduates praise the Defense Analysis program for helping them delve into big-picture issues in a joint environment.

“One of the interesting things about this program is the mix of individual ideas that run the gamut, from pre-combat operations to combat to stabilization missions,” said Army Capt. Lawrence Basha, a Special Forces officer.

With a mix of all services and international students as well, students said they develop perspectives they never could have gained in a single-service school.

“You learn as much from the students as the professors,” Major Rust said, noting that students bring a full range of recent operational experience to the program, making the curriculum “come alive.”

And unlike classes at some military schools, the Defense Analysis program opens students’ minds to issues and problems with no textbook solutions.

In fact, Mr. McCormick said, “the books on these subjects are still being written.”

What the program offers students is a new, broader context for looking at military operations and creative, nontraditional ways of addressing challenges.

“There are no boundaries here and no limitations. You’re not in a box,” Captain Meer said. “Nobody is saying, ‘You’re a student. Stay in your lane.’ They encourage you to broaden yourself and the way you think.”

Army Maj. David Downing said he is confident he will apply the lessons he is learning when he returns to an operational unit.

“They give you the tools so when you encounter a problem, you can analyze it and know where to find solutions or how to craft solutions based on models,” he said.

“It’s taught me how to do critical thinking, and how to look at things from a different point of view,” Major Klingmeyer said. “And that makes you a better officer and a better leader.”

Retired Army Col. Peter Gustaitis, an instructor for the program, said students “won’t even realize the tools they have developed” until they finish the program and return to the field.

“That’s when they’ll see what they’ve gained here,” he said. “They’ll be heads and shoulders above their contemporaries.”

# Learning to manage chronic pain

By 1ST LT. ELLEN HARR  
59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) – Like many motivated Airmen, Staff Sgt. Robin Morrow is determined to make the most of her career.

Chronic back pain after an automobile accident and spinal surgery almost shortened the career of the noncommissioned officer in charge of point-of-care testing for the 859th Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron.

After the accident, her duties as a hospital lab technician were modified. She could no longer work out, let alone take the physical fitness test. Even normal activities after work, like going out with friends, became difficult. There was also a chance that she might have to separate from the Air Force because of medical problems.

“The main thing was that pain overshadowed every decision I made. I couldn’t do anything without thinking about how much pain it would cause first. Pain ruled my life,” she said.

Sergeant Morrow received care at Wilford Hall Medical Center here, the same hospital where she worked. She saw specialists and completed physical and occupational therapy pro-

grams. She visited the chiropractor and had surgery on her spine. Nothing made the pain go away.

She then was referred to Wilford Hall’s interdisciplinary pain treatment program, Functional Occupational Rehabilitation Treatment, in which medical, physical therapy, occupational therapy and psychological care providers joined together to determine a treatment plan.

“I was skeptical at first, because I felt like I had already tried everything. But I thought the program was an interesting idea and I was willing to give it a try,” she said.

Sergeant Morrow joined about 10 other servicemembers in the six-week program. Participants all worked out together and went to classes on learning to manage their pain.

They also met individually with the rehabilitation providers to determine their treatment plan and progress. The program’s care providers collaborated to administer intensive treatment, specifically tailored to Sergeant Morrow’s condition, an advantage her previous therapy had not offered.

At 21, Sergeant Morrow was the youngest person in the group; the oldest was about 45. All participants were active-duty service members, representing all ranks, branches of service and types of

injuries.

“For me, the most challenging part of the program was when they gave me the workout plan,” she said. “I had to lift boxes and put weights in boxes. Before, I would always just say ‘I can’t do it.’ So overcoming that and doing what they wanted me to do made me realize I can do these things.”

“It made a world of difference,” she said. “For someone who has never experienced chronic pain, it may be difficult to understand what a difference this program has made. It would have been so easy just to quit my job and lie on my parents’ couch. But for anyone who is in pain, this program is so worth it.”

Sergeant Morrow is now qualified to be stationed or deploy anywhere in the world. Her life and career are no longer limited by pain. She is able to exercise regularly and is no longer on any type of medical profile.

“They talk about your toolbox in the program. For me it means, I will always have pain, but now I have the tools to manage that pain and I don’t have to put my life on hold because of pain,” she said.

The gains she made through the FORT program have given her life back to her, and allowed the Air Force to keep one of its most valuable resources – a motivated Airman.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### 78th MSS to close Aug. 26 for picnic

The 78th Mission Support Squadron will close for normal business August 26 at 11:30 a.m. The closure is to allow unit members, along with their families, to participate in a unit summer fun day and picnic. Offices affected include: The Military Personnel Flight, 78th Mission Support Squadron Command Support Staff, Family Support Center, Civilian Personnel Flight, Education and Training Office and the Manpower Flight. All offices will reopen for normal duty hours Aug. 29. For emergency service on that day, contact us at 926-5295.

### Base water restrictions

People living at **odd numbered** home addresses may use water outdoors on **Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, between 8 p.m. - 11 a.m.**

People living at **even numbered** home addresses may use water outdoors on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, between 8 p.m. - 11 a.m.**

No outdoor water use is allowed on Fridays. The Pine Oaks Golf Course and base industrial operations are exempt from the restrictions.

# Hundreds of NCOs face involuntary retraining

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) – More than 3,000 staff, technical and master sergeants have been identified to receive retraining vulnerability notices under the initial phase of the Air Force’s fiscal 2006 Noncommissioned Officer Retraining Program.

The retraining program is designed to help balance the enlisted force by moving non-commissioned officers in specialties with surpluses to those specialties with shortages.

As part of Phase I of the program, which began Aug. 1 and will run through Oct. 14, Air Force officials notified those NCOs who are listed as vulnerable to retrain.

Officials asked those Airmen to submit their individual choices of shortage career fields that they would most like to retrain into or to apply for special duty assignments no later than Oct. 14.

If voluntary measures are unsuccessful, the Air Staff will implement Phase II, involuntary retraining.

In Phase II, individuals identified as vulnerable in Air Force Specialty Codes not meeting retraining-out objectives, and without approved retraining or special duty assignments by Oct. 14, will be involuntarily retrained.

“This phase of the retraining program is necessary to help meet the needs of the Air Force by putting Airmen where they are needed most,” said Tech. Sgt. Catina Johnson-Roscoe, the noncommissioned officer in

charge of Air Force Enlisted Retraining at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

Major commands will continue to accept volunteer applications from individuals not identified as vulnerable.

Additionally, they will encourage all eligible NCOs to consider recruiting, military training instructors, first sergeant duty or professional military education instructor, Sergeant Johnson-Roscoe said.

# Raising *the* BAR

## Robins Elementary School striving for all students to meet or exceed standards in '06

By LANORRIS ASKEW  
Lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

**T**he Robins Elementary School Rockets are blasting off to a great start this year and with plenty of momentum left over from a very successful 2004-2005 school year; the staff and faculty say they're expanding their horizons.

With the theme of "Growing to become a professional learning community," the school has implemented several initiatives meant to ensure each student gets the individual attention he or she needs to excel and well, the proof is in the pudding.

Last year the school boasted achievement test scores that surpassed the national and Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools or DDESS average and Cindy O'Mara, school improvement team chair, said it was teamwork that made it happen.

"When we took this on we threw out our goals and asked the teachers what they thought and because they're professionals they brought back a lot of great ideas," she said. "It was a team effort. Everyone pitched in."

While the school improvement team, a group of seven people who got together and looked at test scores and created a school goal to boost better communication and comprehension, set the goals, it was the entire school that made it a reality.

"If you look at statistics some of the things that help boost test scores is professional development, so we decided to get out at 1:30 p.m. on Mondays and we created cooperative learning groups for teachers where we all set goals and discussed how we would all work together to achieve them," said Mrs. O'Mara. "It's everyone working together to accomplish the task."

In addition to the Monday brainstorming sessions the school also implemented a data assessment four times per year, once each grading period, that reviews standards and gives an indicator of which students need what.

"We also decided that we needed parent's attention, so we had a valentine for families that gave them awareness of what the children were doing," said Mrs. O'Mara. "We have very supportive parents."

They also implemented an assignment book for students to take home and get signed, as well as conferences, homework workshops for struggling students, Open House for Math where parents came in to learn the teaching styles.

"One of the best practices we have is varying teaching style for various learning styles," said Mrs. O'Mara.

Jeanne Roberts, school principal, said a mentoring program for students who needed extra help in math was also established.

"We had a great response from the base community and the results were very favorable," she said. "We also have what we

call buddy groups that get together and quiz each other with flash cards or reading and writing materials in a cooperative learning effort. It's usually the older teaching the younger."

While half of the work is preparation, the real payoff to all of these endeavors was revealed at test time.

Jane Hamilton, school guidance counselor, said in addition to all of the other efforts, every three months they looked at individual test scores and focused on how they could help the students improve.

"It wasn't easy, but it was those groups and brainstorming that helped bring about the success," she said.

Mrs. Hamilton explained that one of the testing systems in place for Robins Elementary school is the Terra Nova Achievement Test, a standardized test used by all DDESS schools.

"It's a very different test than what the rest of the nation uses," she said. "The test includes writing, problem solving which requires the students to show their work and multiple choice."

"All schools overseas also use this test so when a student comes in from another school we have test scores that are comparable so we know where each student is academically."

Averages show that overall scores for students in grades two through six went up by ten percentage points on the Terra Nova standardized achievement tests.

Mrs. Roberts said there are some challenges though.

"We have a very diverse and mobile population," she said. We must take each student as an individual and do whatever possible to raise them to their highest potential."

Sherry Crocker, assistant principal, said the school is on a five year plan and has a 2006 goal that all students will meet or exceed the standards.

On the Criterion Reference Test or CRCT, a two-part communication arts and math exam taken by fourth graders at the school scores were impressive.

"We are happy to report that our fourth graders did an outstanding job," said Dr. Crocker. "In the total battery with communication art 66 percent of our students met or exceeded the standard as compared to 60 percent nationally."

"In reading 70 percent met or exceeded standards versus 64 percent nationally and in writing 63 percent met or exceed standards versus 57 percent nationally and in mathematics 92 percent met or exceeded standards."

The assistant principal said the students have been doing the CRCT for three years.

"Our students have been continually progressing and we are very confident we are going to meet that goal," she said.

"You have to know where you are to know where you're going and with your students you have to know where they are to know where you're taking them," said Mrs. O'Mara. "The data folders tell us where they are."



Jack Balzano climbs some bars of his own during recess at Robins Elementary School Tuesday afternoon.



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP  
Above, Harmony Cassingham picks out unfamiliar words in a story the class is studying. Last year the school boasted achievement test scores that surpassed the national and Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools average.

Left, Maddy Lee, a Robins Elementary third grade student, listens to directions for an assignment from her teacher, Gloria Wheeler.



Bea Petrie, librarian assistant at Robins Elementary School, reads to Beverly Crawford's Pre-Kindergarten class in the school media center Tuesday.

TODAY

Robins Company Grade Officers' Association will hold its summer social and membership drive from 3 -8 p.m. at the Officers' Club poolside patio. All commanders, CGOs, and their families are invited to this free evening of swimming, food, fun and games. Activities include Texas Hold'em style poker, volleyball, and horseshoe tournaments, as well as a variety of games for kids. There will also be a game of Assassins running throughout the night. Dress is summer attire or swimsuit. To attend, R.S.V.P. to Capt. Aaron Neiss at 222-0127 or aaron.neiss@robins.af.mil; or 1st Lt. Eric Florschuetz at 926-3443 or eric.florschuetz@robins.af.mil.

All-you-can-eat catfish and the fixings are served from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the officers' club. For more information, call 926-2670.

Catfish on the curb is offered Fridays from 5 - 7 p.m. at the Enlisted Club. To-go dinners include catfish, coleslaw or potato salad and hush puppies for \$5.95.

Play Joint Forces bingo in the east wing of the enlisted club Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays with bar bingo at 6 p.m. and games at 7:15 p.m. Games are 2:45 p.m. on Sundays. The entry fee is free to all Robins' club members, bona fide guests and active duty or retired widow club members and \$5 for eligible non-club members. For more information, call 926-4515.

The Fitness Center has postponed the tennis league until Monday. The league will have an A and B division for both men and women for singles and doubles.

A players' meeting will be held today-at 2 p.m. in the fitness center. For more information, please call Tech. Sgt. Siudzinski or Mr. Kenneth Porter at 926-2128.

SATURDAY

A four play walleyball tournament will be held at 10 am. Awards for first and second place teams. For more information and to register, call 926-2128.

Enjoy Thunder Alley bowling every Friday and Saturday from 9 - 11 p.m. at the Robins Lanes Bowling Center. Friday is family night, 12 years and younger bowl for \$5 and over 12 years old, \$10. Saturdays everyone bowls for \$10 per person. This includes all the games you can bowl in two hours and shoes. For more information call 926-2112.

Command Texas Hold 'Em tournament starts today. Enjoy eight weeks of play with one winner advancing to win the coveted Command Championship with a grand prize of \$1,500. Winner will receive a club card credit of the amount won (must be a club member to win prizes). Free to club members and non-members \$15. For more information, call 926-4515.

SUNDAY

The Officers' Club brunch is from 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. with all-you-care-to-enjoy breakfast and dinner entrees. Cost is \$9.95 for members and \$11.95 for nonmembers.

MONDAY

Come out and enjoy line dance lessons every Monday from 6 - 8 p.m. in the Smith Community Center ballroom. Cost is \$30 per person, and class size is limited to 40 students. Must be 16 years and older to participate. For more information, call 926-2105.

Everyone is invited to come out and roll the dice during Bunco at the Smith Community Center Aug. 22 at 6 p.m. Must be 16 years old or older to play. For more information, call Civilian Recreation at 926-1303

TUESDAY

Officers' Christian Fellowship meets at 7:15 p.m. at a member's home. The

Let's bowl



U.S. Air Force file photo by SUE SAPP

Enjoy Thunder Alley bowling every Friday and Saturday from 9 - 11 p.m. at the Robins Lanes Bowling Center. Friday is family night, 12 years and younger bowl for \$5 and over 12 years old, \$10. Saturdays everyone bowls for \$10 per person. This includes all the games you can bowl in two hours and shoes. For more information call 926-2112.

organization encourages all military members to grow in their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ through prayer and fellowship together. OCF serves all active duty officers, enlisted personnel, guard and reserve members, ROTC cadets/midshipmen, international.

Karaoke is held at the enlisted club every Tuesday from 8 p.m. - midnight with Bobbie. Semi-finals were held August 16 with finals to be held August 23. For more information, call 926-4515.

The Joint Forces Bingo has new surprises and door prizes! Joint Forces Bingo is located in the east wing of the Robins Enlisted Club. The hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday with bar bingo at 6 p.m. and games at 7:15 p.m. Games are 2:45 p.m. on Sundays.

Anyone with an active duty, reserve, guard, retired, DoD or family member identification card is eligible to play. The entry fee is free to all Robins' club members, bona fide guests and active duty or retired widow club members and \$5 for eligible non-club members. For more information call 926-4515.

The Civil Air Patrol is looking for volunteers from the Robins community. Nationwide, members perform more than 90 percent of all U.S. Air Force search and rescue missions with both air and ground assets.

We also teach aerospace classes and help instill leadership skills in our members. Membership is open to citizens age 18 and older, and we have a cadet program for kids age 12-18.

The Middle Georgia Squadron meets Tuesdays at the Middle Georgia Regional Airport in the ASA training building from 7-9 p.m. To find out more, go to www.capnhq.gov, or contact Todd Engelman at 213-4569 or PlaneFlyr@bellsouth.net.

Officers' Christian Fellowship meets Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m. at a member's home.

WEDNESDAY

Dance lessons are given every Wednesday from 6 - 8 p.m. at the officers' club. For more information, call 926-2670.

Enjoy a couple's night out while playing a 9-hole scramble Aug. 24 at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 per annual green fee couple or \$35 per non-annual green fee couple and includes green fee, golf car, food and prizes.

National Contract Management Association usually meets the third Wednesday of the month at the Officers' Club at 11:30 a.m., but that can change

depending on speaker availability. For information, call Michelle Idone at 926-2231.

THURSDAY

The Robins Officers' Spouses' Club will hold a special activities coffee at 10 a.m. at the Museum of Aviation (Hanger One). Representatives from base and community organizations will be on hand to provide information about Middle Georgia.

Enjoy OSC special activities, clubs and volunteer opportunities including: bowling, book club, bridge, bunko, golf, mahjongg, play group, scrap booking, tennis, thrift shop, and tours.

Reservations aren't required. For more information, contact Nandalee Sarandos at 953-8137, 442-1567 or RobinsOSC@gmail.com or Heather Walrath at 218-0493 or hhillw@hotmail.com.

Enjoy Jazz and Rhythm and Blues with Ken Trimmins and Quiet Storm from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the main lounge of the Robins Officers' Club. For more information, call 926-2670.

Come out to the greatest after work party and ladies night out every Thursday from 6 - 9 p.m. at the enlisted club. Enjoy jazz and rhythm and blues entertainment.

UPCOMING

A dinner dance will be held Aug. 27 at the officers' club. Dinner will be held from 6 - 9 p.m. Dancing will be from 7 - 11 p.m. in the ballroom with musical entertainment by Bob Cummings. For more information, call 926-2670.

The Al-Sihah Shriners circus will be held Sept. 10 and 11 at the Macon Coliseum. Advanced tickets sales are available at ITT; \$10 adults and \$5 children (4 - 12 years). Show times are Sept. 10 at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sept. 11 at 1:30 and 5 p.m. For more information, call 926-2945.

The Arts and Crafts Center will be accepting entries from youth and adults for the artist's craftsman and photo contest base-level Sept. 19 and 20.

Judging will take place on Sept. 21. Winners will be announced and certificates presented on Sept. 23 at 4 p.m. Open to all military, DoD civilians and immediate family members. For more information, call 926-5282.

Robins Hispanic Heritage Committee presents the Hispanic Spectacular Show Sept. 24 at the Museum of Aviation amphitheater from 7 to 10 p.m.

Gates open at 6 p.m. Enjoy a night of cultural music and live performances. Bring your lawn chairs, snacks and bev-

erages. For more information, visit http://members.cox.net/rafb-hho-2005/.

The Information, Tickets and Travel office has tickets for the Oct. 1 and 2 Food World 300 and UAW-Ford 500 at the Talladega Super Speedway in Talladega, Ala. Tickets located in the Talladega section are \$110.

This is for both days and includes a pre-pit pass for Sunday race. Tickets are also available for the Oct. 29 and 30 Easy Care Vehicle Service Contracts 200 and Bass Pro Shops MBNA 500 at the Atlanta Motor Speedway.

Tickets are \$50 for both days and are located in the east turn section. For more information call 926-2945.

Dixie Crow Chapter of the Association of Old Crows, a professional Electronic Combat organization, meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 11:45 a.m. in the atrium of the Officers' Club.

For more information, contact Julie Vick at 926-2264 or Wes Heidenreich at 929-4441.

The Air Force Cadet Officer Mentor Action Program (AFCOMAP) Middle Georgia Chapter, a professional organization dedicated to the mentoring and professional development of all Air Force officers and officer candidates, meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. in the Daedalion Room of the Officers' Club.

More information can be found on Robins homepage under Special Functions.

Aerospace Toastmasters Club 3368 meets the second and fourth Wednesday of every month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the PK conference room, Building 300.

If you wish to enhance your communication skills and become a better leader at work and in your community, come join us. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Robert E. Hall at 497-2946 or Brenda Smith at 222-1710.

A series of movies in the park is scheduled featuring "The Empire Strikes Back," Aug. 26 and "The Return of the Jedi," Aug. 27.

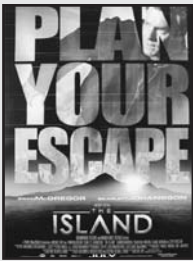
Movies start at dark in Robins Park. Guests may bring lawn chairs and blankets and concessions will be on sale. Rain or high winds will cancel. For more information call the Smith Community Center at 926-2105.

To have an item listed, send it to Geoff Janes at vance.janes@robins.af.mil by 4 p.m. Monday prior to the Friday of intended publication.

NOW PLAYING



Adult tickets are \$3.50; children 11 years old and younger tickets are \$2. Movies start at 7:30 p.m., unless noted. For more information, call the Base Theater at 926-2919.



TODAY

Fantastic Four

Ioan Gruffudd and Jessica Alba

When an experimental space voyage goes awry, four people are changed by cosmic rays. Together, they use their unique powers to explore the strange aspects of the world, and to foil the evil plans of Doctor Doom.

Rated PG-13 (sequences of intense action, and some suggestive content) 106 minutes

SATURDAY

The Island

Ewan McGregor and Scarlett Johansson

Lincoln is a resident of a seemingly utopian but contained facility in the mid 21st century. Like all of the inhabitants of this carefully controlled environment, Lincoln hopes to be chosen to go to "The Island" - reportedly the last uncontaminated spot on the planet. But Lincoln soon discovers that everything about existence is a lie.

Rated PG-13: (intense sequences of violence and action, some sexuality and language) 127 minutes

UPCOMING

Charlie And The Chocolate Factory

Johnny Depp and Freddie Highmore

Charlie Bucket wins a candy bar contest and is given a tour, along with four other children, of the amazing factory run by the eccentric Willy Wonka and his staff. Rated PG (quirky situations, action and mild language) 106 minutes

CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic

Catholic masses are held at the chapel each Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m., on Holy Days of Obligation at noon and at a 5 p.m. vigil the day before, and Monday through Friday at noon. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is Saturday from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

Islamic

Islamic Friday Prayer (Jumuah) is Fridays at 2 p.m. in the chapel annex rooms 1 and 2.

Jewish

Jewish service is Fridays at 6:15 p.m. at the Macon synagogue.

Orthodox Christian

St. Innocent Orthodox Church service is at the chapel on the second Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m.

Protestant

General services take place Sundays at 11 a.m. The service includes some traditional and contemporary worship styles in music and format. Protestant inspirational services take place Sundays at 8 a.m. Contemporary services take place 11 a.m. Sundays at the Base Theater. This service is informal and includes traditional and contemporary styles of music and worship.

The chapel helps with spiritual needs that arise. For further information, call the chapel at 926-2821.

DONATE YOUR LEAVE

Employee-relations specialists at 926-5307 or 926-5802 have information and instructions concerning requests to receive or donate annual leave. To have an approved leave recipient printed in the

Robins Rev-Up, wings should send information to Geoff Janes at vance.janes@robins.af.mil. Submissions run for two weeks.

The following person has been approved as a participant in the leave transfer program. Mary Beth Rawls, WR-ALC/FMRD. Point of contact is Andrea Akles at 222-2366.

# 1,600 workers learn about Sustainment Transformation through recent training

78th Air Base Wing Staff Reports

Robins is keeping its workers aware of war fighters’ ever-changing needs and how to meet them.

The base recently completed its 42nd session of the Sustainment Transformation Awareness Education (STAE) Program.

The program introduced more than 1,600 employees to Air Force-wide transformation efforts to improve war fighter readiness and drive down cost, by implementing revolutionary changes to the systems and processes now used to provide

**WHAT TO KNOW:**

Send comments or questions about Sustainment Transformation to [st.info@robins.af.mil](mailto:st.info@robins.af.mil).

sustainment support in the Air Force.

Kenneth Winslette, director of the 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing’s Strategic Business Operations Division, said the education program is a way Robins is preparing for what lies ahead.

“The work force needs to be fully aware and prepared for the changes that will accompany the

new business processes and technologies associated with Sustainment Transformation,” he said. “The STAE sessions were the first step in raising awareness and preparing the work force for the road ahead.”

After a number of sessions held at the base, managers and workers from maintenance, contracting, logistics and other fields gained a better understanding of Sustainment Transformation initiatives.

That includes such things as purchasing and supply chain management, depot maintenance transformation, product support campaigns, among others.

Sherri Luck, with the 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing’s Lean Office, who attended the May 2 session, said while change can be difficult, the training will help others adapt as the need arises.

“The main challenge for this initiative is changing individual mindsets and helping people accept and adapt to transformation before actually changing the process,” she said. “Constant communication and education will be essential for the required culture changes necessary for success.”

Ms. Luck said the training laid the groundwork for more specialized, follow-up training for specific job series.

## Robins Air Force Base staff sergeant selectees announced

*The following personnel from Robins Air Force Base have been selected for promotion to staff sergeant:*

Maximino A. Agosto  
Alberto San Alcala  
James B Alford  
Daniel Alvarez  
Paul Duan Anderson  
Michael D.Andrews  
Joshua M Arey.  
Johnathon Autry  
Winford Doyl Baker  
Cynthia Bazile  
Nathaniel Beaty  
Brandon Benton  
Steven J. Bergakker  
Jeremiah Beyale  
Antenette A. Bland  
Kenneth John Bland  
Jeremy B. Blaylock  
Ryan P. Bobholz  
Brandi N. Bolden  
Jamie C. Bouchard  
Shawn M. Bowers  
Daniel Bradley  
David F. Bradley  
Michael T. Bridge  
John C. Brooks  
Jonas M. Brooks  
Michael L. Brown  
Timothy Burris  
Philip M. Camp  
Christopher T. Carr  
George J. Carter  
Lamartreal Carter  
Dustin O. Castillo  
Elgin B. Clark  
Shalanda N. Clark  
Dalford L. Corley  
Andrew J. Coyner  
Ligaya M. Craig  
Kiani R. Crespo  
Jonathon T. Dalsing  
Alician M. Davis  
Craig Lee Davis  
Tia M. Davis  
Tamika D. Delaney  
Magda A. Delarosa  
Lindy Ann Demming  
Jason Deusenberry  
Cory A. Di Cesare  
David L. Dilley  
Christian E. Dixon  
Craig M. Drobek  
Matthew Robert Dunn  
Shawn L. Dunn  
Fernando D. Duran  
James M. Earwood  
Darryl Elliott  
Kari D. England  
Randall L. Erwin  
Patricio Escanilla  
Candace A. Evans  
Shaquelia A. Evans  
Robert S. Ferguson  
Brian J. Forbes  
Michael S. Fox  
Wesley R. Fraker  
Terrell L. Frideger  
David P. Fritz  
Lakyshia Fullwood  
Daniel Garratt  
Brian J. Gee  
Casey C. Givens  
Jacob G. Gjesvold  
William E. Glass  
Jeffrey H. Godfrey  
Timothy M. Gordon  
Christopher Griffith  
Levi E. Griffith  
Francis Ray Grimm  
Hildo J. Gutierrez  
Christopher Haines  
Ronald R. Hale Jr.  
Andrew F. Hamilton  
Kidada T. Hamilton  
David Harris  
Nila Hay  
Heather A. Helfrich  
Niko J. Helm  
Denise J. Hernandez  
Dijone J. Higgins  
Brad M. Hoelscher  
Brandis J. Holcomb  
Lisa Marie Hollis  
Dewayne A. Huff  
Audrey M. Hughes  
Rachel Hughes  
Serra D. Ivers  
Charles Jackson  
Shalonda D. Jelks  
Jamal Farid Jihad  
Christopher Johnson  
Derek E. Johnson  
Jermarquis Johnson  
Robert D. Johnson  
Stephanie Johnson  
Murray Keith Jones  
Rhonda Kay Jones  
Eric S. Jordan  
Patrick Jurgensen  
Jacob Les Kaminski  
Samuel G. Kennedy  
Megan Rae Kent  
Joshua Lee Kieman  
Richard P. Kuriger  
Chad Jose Laflamme

Deandra L. Lamons  
John R. Lane  
Robert J. Langlois  
Jason D. Lawrence  
David A. Leacock  
Christopher Leonard  
Robert A. Levelle  
Tobin Lama Lindsey  
Samuel W. Long  
Herman Mackey  
Vincent A. Maiuri  
Carl T. Manning  
Samantha Marshall  
Ricardo J. Martinez  
Ruben Martinez  
Latoya D. Mayberry  
Nefertari McCants  
Rayvon T. McCoy  
Magnum T. Mccrae  
Calvin J. McCray  
Sherdel McCullough  
Angala R. McGinnis  
Michael L. McGuire  
Terrence I. McGuire  
John W. Mclvoy  
Joshua D. McMahan  
Douglas M. McNeill  
Justin P. McSwain  
Casey M. Medders  
Timothy S. Merrill  
Jeffrey Militante  
Anthony F. Miller  
Erica M. Miller  
Linda E. Mitchell  
Roman F. Montalvo  
Timothy D. Montjoy  
Daniel J. Moore  
Frederick A. Moore  
Caleb E. Moralez  
Christopher Morgan  
Joshua C. Morgan  
Patrick M. Morgan  
Lisa M. Mullen  
Michael A. Naas

Rick A. Nacionales  
Nicholas J. Nickert  
Jason T. Oakley  
Luke James Oaks  
Meredith E. Olson  
Ortagus L. Oxendine  
Daniel C. Palermi  
Dennis F. Paniza  
Ryan Pearce  
Michael L. Pekarek  
Daniel J. Personius  
Kelly D. Phillips  
Angela J. Pierce  
David J. Pierce  
Michael P. Potter  
Tracy M. Powell  
Karen A. Price  
Patrick W. Price  
Peter Pritchett  
Terrence E. Pugh  
Bryan E. Rae  
Roger Ramos  
Hiadia A. Ramsey  
Chanda E. Randall  
Christopher Randall  
Nicholas S. Regini  
Robert L. Richards  
Michael Q. Robinson  
Tameka L. Robinson  
Crystal Rodriguez  
Mark A. Rodriguez  
Dionne E. Rogers  
Jonathan C. Rosier  
Kizzy T. Rostant  
Michael S. Rush  
Michael Rutkowski  
Jared S. Saario  
Ronald L. Sadler  
Jessica A. Salazar  
Bonnie Lynn Sasser  
Arthur Schatteles  
Matthew Schoonover  
Brian P. Seamster  
Johnny C. Seay, Jr.

Timothy Gavin Shaw  
Anthony Shemanski  
Chaunte N. Shepherd  
Glenn L. Shiloh  
Toni Denae Shiloh  
Michael Lee Sikes  
Clifford Singleton  
David C. Sloboda  
David M. Smith  
Kevin Alan Smith  
Shaun L. Smith  
Andrew David Sotak  
Kevin R. Soucy  
Jonathan Stine  
Jeremy S. Stoute  
Susan C. Stroman  
Kenneth B. Strout  
Lillie T. Swafford  
Matthew J. Taubman  
Adam Jose Thompson  
Steven E. Thompson  
Tara Throckmorton  
Brandon Treadaway  
Maxswell Tubbs  
Mich Turnersanders  
Joseph P. Vanasse  
Shonna Lee Vance  
Christopher C. Vann  
Dextvian A. Vann  
Karen D. Vickers  
Robert John Wasil  
Kenneth M.Watson  
Sharitta C. Watson  
Alisha M. Webster  
Jermaine D. Western  
David M. Whalen  
Dermedrix V. White  
Cameron Wilkinson  
Zackery D. Williams  
Sarah M. Winberry  
David Michael Yann  
Ladonna D. Young

– From staff reports

# Taking aim

■ Robins officer earns silver, gold medals at recent Armed Forces Shooting Competition

By **LANORRIS ASKEW**  
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

It’s game time for Lt. Col. Mark Hays, but there’s no rallying of team members, no words of wisdom from a coach and no cheers from the sideline. This sport takes precision, concentration and most of all a steady hand. This is the sport of competitive shooting.

Known as a marksman among the shooting elite, the 330th Tactical Airlift Sustainment Group deputy director recently earned his bragging rights by receiving the silver and gold medal at the Armed Forces Shooting Competition at Camp Perry, Ohio, becoming a recipient of the much coveted United States Air Force Distinguished Pistol Badge.

“I’ve been competing since late 1999, but I’ve been with the shooting sport most of my life,” said the colonel. “This is rare. Most people who start out trying to get this badge never complete the process and actually obtain it. It feels really good.”

Col. Joe Chang, who introduced Col. Hays to the sport, is very proud of how far he has come.

“He has been shooting for about six years and has worked diligently toward earning that badge,” said the Air Force Pistol Team captain. “If I could think of a deserving person, it’s him. He’s worked hard for four years and came through because of his hard work and dedication.”

Colonel Hays, also a member of the Air Force Pistol Team, said his love for the shooting



**Lt. Col. Mark Hays 330th Tactical Airlift Sustainment Group deputy director recently earned his bragging rights by receiving the silver and gold medal at the Armed Forces Shooting Competition at Camp Perry, Ohio**

sport began early.

“I started out plinking,” he said. “I used to go out in a pit with my father and shoot cans.”

The colonel has come a long way since then. Now he wields 9 mm.,.22 and 45 caliber pistols in competition with some of the best. His most recent competition landed him in the top 10 percent of 600 of the top shooters in the country.

“I’ve found through the years that shooting is 90 percent mental, 10 percent physical,” he said. “So you’ve got a lot to overcome because you’re really shooting against yourself. You’re fighting all the thoughts of trying to put a shot right in the middle of the target at 50 yards, and if you can clear your mind, you’ll typically place the shot where you want to.”

While his normal shooting spots consist of ranges in Conyers and Dawsonville Ga., the competition in Ohio was special because it ended a four-year race for the top spot.

“It was a part of the Air Force Excellence in Competition program,” he said. “It’s something I tried for a long time and its wasn’t until I quit focusing on winning that I won.”

Earning badge requires an Airman to place among the top 10 percent of eligible shooters at one of these competitions. Shooters typically gain 6, 8 or 10 points during the competition.

Sounds easy enough right? “You can only shoot four times a year to gain those points,” said Col. Hays. “So, for a typical shooter, it would take four to six years to ‘leg out’ or get 30 points and be awarded the badge.”

The sport may bring him glory and a sense of accomplishment, but the colonel said it offers a lot more.

“It helps me relax,” he said. “It helps me focus myself mentally. It’s all about control. You have to control your thoughts and allow your subconscious to do the work. This is accurate shooting

“I might add. You’re shooting at a target the size of a coffee can at 50 yards and the idea is to put all ten rounds right in the middle. So you have to focus all of your mental effort on what you’re doing at the time. I find it one relaxing and two rewarding to see that you can take yourself to a level of being able to do that competition.”

# Air Force to start new officer assignment system test soon

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) – The Air Force will conduct a test of a continuous officer assignment system for a select group of career fields beginning in September.

The test system, designed as the result of a Lean process review, seeks to eliminate the vulnerable-to-move list and facilitate deliberate career moves through force development.

Lean is a way of streamlining processes and making them more efficient by removing waste, reducing cycle time and improving customer satisfaction.

The test system is also expected to reduce permanent change-of-station costs by eliminating unnecessary moves, said Air Force Personnel Center officials here.

The current system works fine, but can be improved by adapting it to the tenets of the force development construct, said Col. Lee Hall, AFPC director of assignments.

“We are testing this system to see if there’s a better assignment process for today’s Air Force,” Colonel Hall said. “Rather than determine assignments using officers’ time on station as the primary driver, the test will seek to match officers to assignments based upon what the career field development teams, with input from commanders and supervisors, determine is the most appropriate next step for their development.”

Time on station will still remain a significant factor; however, officers with the requisite skills who need a certain level of assignment to further their personal development and who provide future value to the Air Force are what really define the pool of officers available to fill any particular requirement, Colonel Hall said.

The test system should provide an additional benefit to officers in a “must move” status awaiting notification of their next assignment, he said.

For example, officers who now attend professional military education in the summer normally wait until the following spring for follow-on assignment notification.

“The test assignment system would provide the flexibility to begin matching people to assignments as soon as requirements

“We are testing this system to see if there’s a better assignment process for today’s Air Force. Rather than determine assignments using officers’ time on station as the primary driver, the test will seek to match officers to assignments based upon what the career field development teams ... determine is the most appropriate next step for their development.”

Col. Lee Hall  
AFPC director of assignments

are known instead of relying upon a rigid timeline as the current (vulnerable-to-move list) approach dictates,” Colonel Hall said. “Once assignment openings are identified and development teams determine appropriate development paths, the matching process could begin.”

To help ensure the test’s success, officers included in the test group must ensure their transitional officer development plan is current.

The plan provides officers a way to communicate directly with their development team, through their commander or supervisor, on the path they envision for their future development and their basing preferences.

Following review by the development team, it then becomes a key tool in the assignment process.

The Air Force designed the existing vulnerable-to-move system to provide a shared awareness among officers, commanders and assignments personnel on which officers were most likely to move.

Commanders could then determine whether to release officers for assignments or keep them, based upon mission or personal needs. However, that original intent changed over time.

“The VML evolved to where every officer who came out on the list felt they were essentially being told it’s time to go, sparking a rush to ‘find a job.’ This differs completely with the intent of force development,” Colonel Hall said.

Assignment moves under force development depend not only on what officers are currently doing for the Air Force,

## WHAT TO KNOW

For more information on assignments, officers can visit the Air Force assignments Web site at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afas/](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afas/) or contact their AFPC assignments team.

but what the Air Force is grooming them to become.

“Officers who aspire to attain senior leadership positions will likely find themselves moving more often to gain the required range of experiences,” the colonel said.

“But, not all officers will necessarily need to gain that same level of operational or strategic experience, and so may continue to be appropriately employed where they are now.”

The test and validation process is scheduled to begin with assignment actions after Sept. 1.

It will include officers in the civil engineer career field on the mission support side.

Also included are rotary-wing pilots and fixed-wing special operations/combat search, as well as rescue pilots, navigators, fire control officers and electronic warfare officers (UH-1, MH-53, MH-60, HH-60, CV-22, AC-130, HC-130, MC-130 primary major weapon systems, regardless of current duty specialty) from the rated community.

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# Wynn Dining Facility manager confident in bid for Gold Plate

By **LANORRIS ASKEW**  
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Regardless what you’re hungry for, the Wynn Dining Facility has something for everyone.

The facility serves about 900 military personnel and civilians here on temporary duty a day, and has proven its salt by being selected to vie for the the Air Force Materiel Command Gold Plate Award.

The award is presented to AFMC’s best dining facilityeach year, and the winner goes on to compete for the Air Force level Hennessy Trophy, .

Although winning the award would provide some validation and bragging rights, Shirley Sexton said they already know they’re the best in the Air Force.

“We know we have the best food,” the dining facility manager said. “We have people from all over the Air Force, civilians, Army and Marines tell us ours is the best food they’ve ever gotten at a military dining facility.”

Tech. Sgt. Larry Hall, a security forces officer who eats at the facility every day, agrees.

“They have really good food and the service is always courteous,” he said. “I’ve been here since 1988, so I remember the old chow hall, and this is a drastic improvement.”

Mrs. Sexton remembers the old days, too.

“It’s a lot different than it was a long time ago when there was a set menu and your only choices were either eat it or you don’t,” she said. “We’ve got all of the stuff here that you could get at a restaurant.”

No matter what time of day your hunger strikes, chances are the facility has something you’ll enjoy.

It’s open for breakfast from 6 to 8 a.m., with lunch following from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

**Ruby Logan, 2nd chef, prepares a tray of baked potatoes for the lunch crowd.**

dinner shift runs from 3:30 to 6 p.m. and extends to a carryout only service from 6 to 7 p.m. A midnight breakfast is served from 11 p.m. to 12 a.m.

While the food may be what draws the crowds, it’s the atmosphere that keeps them there.

For racing enthusiasts or those who want something different, a recently christened NASCAR themed room is the talk of the town.

“The new NASCAR theme has gone over well,” said Mrs. Sexton. “The Air Force wants everyone to have themes for

## WHAT TO KNOW

The AFMC Gold Plate inspection team will arrive Monday and judging will be done Tuesday and Wednesday. This year Robins will once again compete against Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., in the single category. Kirtland won the competition last year.

their dining rooms. We let our folks vote and they chose NASCAR – and that’s what we gave them.”